

Golf Shop News

By David Richardson

PGA Golf Professional/Manager - Soldiers Field Golf Course

Spring 2004

While we will all (hopefully) be on the golf course soon, preparations for the 2004 golf season began late last fall. Every year on the golf course is different, and this year is no exception. Golf Course Superintendent Tom St. George and I have been meeting together often over the winter, with the goal of providing the best possible playing conditions on the golf course this year. Men's, Women's, and Senior leagues have also been making plans. Providing golf news on the web site www.RochesterMnGolf.com is something we are looking forward to doing more of this year. All in all, it was a great way to prepare for my second season as the golf professional at Soldiers Field

Our golf course should be in very good shape this spring. As always, we will have some goose leftovers to contend with, as thousands of geese search for food on our fairways. The "Goose Patrol" of Dale Hill, Harlon Thone, and Dwight Rieke worked this fall to keep a great majority of the geese off the golf course, reducing the damage we would otherwise have had. Our unique Goose Patrol members ride the golf course as needed nearly 16 hours a day until the snow covers up the grass. With a little help from nature, the turf should be healthy and growing heartily as soon as the weather warms up.

While most golfers enjoyed the extra distance available during last year's drought, many found it difficult to keep their ball out of the river on holes #9 & #18. This year, we will be concentrating on those areas, to provide softer ground and healthier turf. Many a golf round has been ruined on our closing holes, and while the river will always play havoc with a golfer's score, the lay-up shot will become easier. Once on the green, putts will be rolling a little faster this year. Downhill putts on many greens will require a bit more caution, and provide a challenge that has long been a fun part of the game.

Long time staff member Jason Davis has left Soldiers Field GC for a job in Minneapolis. Jason worked at Soldiers Field for many years, and was a great asset to the facility. Although he will be hard to replace, we are fortunate to have Will Dretsch joining our staff in 2004. Will grew up in Rochester and, as a junior golfer, played most of his golf at Soldiers Field. Will has experience working at Eastwood GC and at Bent Creek CC in Eden Prairie, MN. Will, along with assistant professional Zack Taft and the many other staff members returning, are looking forward to the 2004 golf season.

I hope you enjoy the 2004 golf season and all the golfers you meet at Soldiers Field..